MARVEL®

PSR 53

EXILES®

BEDARD

CALAFIORE

McKENNA

"TWO THOUSAND ORBITS AFTER THE TRINARIANS ATTEMPTED TO **COLONIZE** ME, I REPAID THE INSULT BY HURLING THEIR HOMEWORLD INTO A **BLACK HOLE.**

"AND THOUGH MY RETRIBUTION WAS **JUSTIFIED,** STILL IT WON ME THE ENMITY OF TWO **CELESTIALS**-- GAMMENON THE GATHERER AND JEMIAH THE ANALYZER.

"THE **SPACE GODS,** IT SEEMS, HAD LONG AGO **TAMPERED** WITH THE TRINARIANS, AND I HAD RUINED THEIR EONS-LONG GENETIC EXPERIMENT.

"FOR THIS TRESPASS, THEY DECREED THAT **EGO, THE LIVING PLANET** MUST **DIE!"**

LIVING PLANET

PART TWO OF TWO

BY TONY BEDARD & JIM CALAFIORE

MARK MCKENNA INKS | JC COLORS | DAVE SHARPE LETTERS | MIZUKI SAKAKIBARA COVER ART

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"HOWEVER, CONDEMNING ME AND EXECUTING ME ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS ***ENTIRELY!***

"ALMOST AS SOON AS I EVADED THE CELESTIALS, I BEGAN PLANNING THEIR ***DEMISE.***

"FIRST, I CAME TO ***YOU***-- PLANET EARTH, BIRTHWORLD OF ***SO MANY*** WHO HAVE VEXED ME IN THE PAST.

"THE GNATS WHO INFEST YOUR SURFACE THOUGHT THEY DROVE ME AWAY. IN FACT, I HAD SECRETLY PLANTED WITHIN YOU THE ***SEED OF AWARENESS.***

"I THEN HID IN THE SHADOW OF A NEIGHBORING GAS GIANT, WAITING FOR MY SEED TO ***TRANSFORM*** YOU INTO A ***LIVING PLANET*** LIKE MYSELF.

"AND NOW MY WAIT IS OVER. GAMMENON AND JEMIAH WILL SOON BE HERE..."

...BUT THEY SHALL FIND US ***READY*** FOR THEM, MY CHILD...FOR THEY MUST NOW CONTEND WITH NOT ONE LIVING PLANET, BUT ***TWO!***

HE, um...DOESN'T QUITE SOUND LIKE ***HIMSELF***, SUE...

REED'S BRAIN IS LINKED ***DIRECTLY*** TO THE PLANET'S OWN DEVELOPING CONSCIOUSNESS, BLINK.

WHATEVER ***HAPPENS*** IN EARTH'S NEWBORN MIND, IT TENDS TO OVERWHELM REED'S ***OWN*** PERSONALITY.

OOOHHH...

GOOD LORD, THAT WAS ***INTENSE***... PSIONIC BROADCAST FROM ***EGO***...I COULDN'T HELP BUT ***SPEAK*** IT ALOUD...

WE ***HEARD***, REED.

SO EGO TURNED EARTH INTO A ***COPY*** OF HIMSELF TO HAVE SOME PLANET-SIZED ***BACKUP*** AGAINST THESE SO-CALLED "***SPACE GODS***," huh?

EXACTLY, BEN. AND I'M AFRAID THAT WHEN EGO ARRIVES, HE'LL URGE THE EARTH TO ***WIPE OUT*** EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD, AS IF HUMANKIND WERE MERELY AN ***INFECTION***...

"...AND IF OUR GREATEST HEROES CANNOT DEFEAT OUR PLANET'S *ANTIBODIES*, WHAT CHANCE WILL *ORDINARY PEOPLE* HAVE?"

DOOM! GIVE ME A HAND OVER HERE!

SAVE *YOURSELF*, CAPTAIN! I CAN SCARCELY...eh?! AN *EARTHQUAKE?*

A *STORM'S* BLOWING IN, TOO! THOR, IS THAT *YOUR* DOING?

NAY, JANET VAN DYNE! 'TIS NOT THE THUNDER-GOD'S *WRATH* THAT SETS THE WORLD A-TREMBLING...

...BUT THE PROXIMITY OF *ANOTHER* HEAVENLY BODY--RETURNED AT LAST TO *COMPLETE* OUR DESTRUCTION!

WHY DO YOU NOT ANSWER ME, MY CHILD? MUST I LASH OUT TO ROUSE YOU FROM YOUR SLUMBERS?

SKZZ-POP!

AGGH!

REED--!

NO, SUE! DON'T!

DISCONNECT ME *NOW*, AND THE *ONLY* VOICE EARTH WILL HEAR IS *EGO'S!*

AWAKE, PLANET EARTH!

OPEN YOUR EYES...

...AND LOOK UPON THE FACE OF YOUR FATHER!

...MY... FATHER...?

...YOU?!

...YOU'RE NOT MY FATHER...

I AM AS CLOSE TO ONE AS YOU WILL EVER KNOW! YOU WERE MERELY A ROCK COVERED IN PARASITES UNTIL EGO AWOKE YOU.

AND I SHALL TEACH YOU THE GLORIES OF OUR EXISTENCE, BUT FIRST WE MUST SURVIVE THE DAY.

TWO BEINGS CALLED CELESTIALS PURSUE ME. THEY MEAN TO END EGO, AND THEY SHALL ARRIVE AT ANY MOMENT!

AID ME IN VANQUISHING THEM, OR THEY SHALL SURELY DESTROY YOU, AS WELL!

I...AM... CONFUSED...

...MY FATHER IS...WITHIN ME... NURTURING... TEACHING...

AM I GETTIN' THIS RIGHT? SOUNDS LIKE THE WORLD THINKS STRETCHO IS ITS DADDY!

YOU ARE CONFUSED, MY CHILD. PURGE YOURSELF OF THE INFESTATION ON YOUR SURFACE AND YOU WILL THINK CLEARLY AT LAST.

NO...!

THE WORLD-MIND... sniff... IT'S PUSHING ME OUT...

...I'M... RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS...!

COME ON, BIG-BRAIN! WHIP UP A GIZMO OUT OF A CALCULATOR AND A COFFEE CAN OR SOMETHIN' AND BLAST THAT UGLY MOON UP THERE TA KINGDOM COME!

...TRYING, BEN...HARD TO THINK...

UM, GUYS...?

...LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GETTING EVICTED!

THE ANTIBODIES!

UH-UH, MORPH. WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO.

WE'VE FACED WORSE THAN THIS IN A DOZEN OTHER REALITIES, AND THIS WILL NOT BE THE FIRST MESSED-UP VERSION OF EARTH THE EXILES FAIL TO FIX!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

STAND WITH US, VICTOR VON DOOM!

DOOM DECLINES, ASGARDIAN! THIS BATTLE IS ALREADY LOST!

A CURSE UPON THEE, DOOM!

Eh? I'M RECEIVING TELEMETRY?

BE-DEEP BE-DEEP

...FROM MY METAKIRLIAN IMPLODER!

THEN...THE PINK GIRL DID NOT DESTROY IT AFTER ALL!

BE-DEEP BE-DEEP

"TRANSPONDER PUTS IT SEVENTY-FIVE MILES *UP*. SHE MUST HAVE *TELEPORTED* IT SOMEHOW.."

IMPLODER! THIS IS YOUR *CREATOR!* RETURN TO THESE COORDINATES *AT ONCE!*

EXCELLENT! NOW LET US *COMPLETE* THE MISSION FOR WHICH I DESIGNED YOU...

...LET US SNUFF THE *MIND* WITHIN OUR WORLD, BEFORE IT DESTROYS EVERY LAST *ONE* OF US!

I...*FEEL* SOMETHING...

...SOMEONE IS...*COMING*...

THEY'RE *HERE.*

GREETINGS, JEMIAH AND GAMMENON. WELCOME TO PLANET EARTH.

YOU LOOK DISTRESSED, OLD FRIENDS. WHAT IS WRONG...?

DID I RUIN ANOTHER CELESTIAL SCIENCE EXPERIMENT?!

EGO! WHY?!

THEY MEAN TO KILL US, EARTH! NOW FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE!

SOMEBODY HELP ME!

HANG IN THERE, HEATHER!

IMPERIUS REGINA!

TRANSLATION-- IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!

GET IN THAT SHELTER NOW, BEAK! THIS IS WAY OUTTA YOUR LEAGUE!

BUT--

...NO... NO!

SUSAN...WE'RE DOOMED...WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!

REED, PLEASE! DON'T GIVE UP HOPE!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! EARTH NEEDS MORE POWER TO COMBAT EGO'S ENEMIES!

OUR PLANET IS ABOUT TO INGEST EVERY LIVING ORGANISM ON ITS SURFACE AND USE OUR BIOENERGY TO FIGHT THE CELESTIALS!

I'M TRYING TO CONVINCE EARTH NOT TO DO THIS! THAT IT NEEDS ITS BIOSPHERE, BUT...

...IT'S LIKE A CHILD! RULED BY EMOTION! IT CAN'T BE REASONED WITH!

HEAVEN HELP US, I CAN'T THINK MY WAY OUT OF THIS ONE!

THEN STOP THINKING AND START FEELING!

YOU FEEL WHAT EARTH FEELS, RIGHT? THEN EARTH CAN FEEL YOU! GIVE IT SOMETHING TO CHEW ON!

WHAT DOES IT FEEL LIKE KNOWING YOUR CHILDREN ARE ABOUT TO DIE?!

I HAVE MANY AT HOME, AND IF I EVER LOST EVEN ONE...

Ohmygod--! FRANKLIN!

WHY DO THEY HATE YOU, EGO? WHY WON'T THEY SPEAK?

AFTER WE KILL THEM, I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL!

FRANKLIN!

WHAT?

EARTH, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

YOU! YOU ARE WHAT IS WRONG!

WHAT THE--?!

THEY JUST... STOPPED!

BOOM

WHOA! SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY CHANGED!

MISTER FANTASTIC FINALLY GOT THROUGH TO THE EARTH--MADE IT UNDERSTAND WE'RE MORE THAN JUST PARASITES! WE'RE ITS CHILDREN!

"EARTH'S FIGHTING EGO NOW! THEY ALL ARE!"

!

AW, NO! DOOM FOUND HIS BRAIN-BOMB!

YOU ARE STILL ALIVE?!

NO MATTER--WE WILL SOON RECTIFY THAT!

IMPLODER! TARGET THE CORTEX! NOW!

NO.

BLINK!

BLINK!

BLINK!

BLINK!

DO YOUR WORST, SPACE GODS! IT WILL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT!

FIRST YOU DIE, AND THEN MY UNGRATEFUL OFFSPRING!

DO YOU HEAR ME, EARTH?! YOU WILL DIE SCREAMING FOR--

BLINK!

...NNN...

CLARICE?! CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS FOR THREE DAYS.

DID...DID YOU SEE THEM...?

SEE WHO?

THE BIG METAL GUYS...THE ONES FIGHTING EGO...

ALL I KNOW IS THAT YOU DISAPPEARED WITH DOOM'S DRILL-BOMB, AND A MINUTE LATER, EGO BECAME THE NOT-SO-LIVING PLANET.

DOOM SPLIT, BY THE WAY. HE WAS HOPPING MAD, BUT THERE WERE MORE OF US DOWN THERE THAN HE COULD HANDLE.

WE DEDUCED THAT YOU TELEPORTED THE METAKIRLIAN IMPLODER INTO EGO'S CORE, WHEREUPON IT COLLAPSED HIS BRAIN'S BIO-FIELD UPON ITSELF, EXTINGUISHING HIS LIFE FORCE.

THE MOMENT EGO WAS NO LONGER A THREAT, THE CELESTIALS CEASED HOSTILITIES. HOW DID YOU KNOW THEY WOULD CONDUCT YOU SAFELY BACK TO THE GROUND?

I DIDN'T...I GUESS I'D HOPED I COULD BLINK BACK DOWN BEFORE I PASSED OUT, BUT THE AIR WAS THINNER AND COLDER THAN I EXPECTED.

SO...DID MIMIC EXPLAIN TO YOU WHO WE ARE AND WHY WE'RE HERE?

YUP. NOT THAT HE *BELIEVED* ME AT FIRST, BUT AFTER A COUPLE THOUSAND *QUESTIONS*...

THE WHOLE NOTION OF *FIXING* BROKEN REALITIES IS *FASCINATING*...I'M PARTICULARLY INTRIGUED BY THIS *TIMEBROKER* CHARACTER HE MENTIONED.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, DOES THE *TALLUS* CONFIRM OUR MISSION'S COMPLETED?

YEAH. AND NOW THAT I'M BETTER, IT SAYS WE'RE ABOUT TO *MOVE ON*...

BUT...?

IT SEEMS LIKE A DREAM NOW, BUT I REMEMBER THEM CARRYING ME DOWN... AND *TALKING* TO ME. NOT OUT LOUD, BUT IN MY *HEAD*...

...THEY WANTED TO *WARN* ME. WARN *ALL* OF US.

TIME*BREAKER*...?

WHAT'D THEY *SAY*?

"*BEWARE* THE TIMEBREAKER. HE IS *NOT* WHAT HE *SEEMS*."

ZOOOM

NEXT:
CAUSE & EFFECT!